



## Leroy Jenkins

### Claims by Leroy Jenkins Do Not Hold Up Under Scrutiny

By Michael Barrick

**The issue:** Facts regarding the theological claims of “evangelist” Leroy Jenkins and unanswered questions about the financial affairs of his church, Healing Waters Cathedral, should cause donors to prayerfully consider supporting other Christian ministries that will achieve the donor’s objective in a manner that is more financially transparent and theologically sound. Unsubstantiated claims of “healings” by Mr. Jenkins, his refusal to answer questions or consent to an interview, the unexplained moving of his church from Ohio to Arizona, and other issues that all point to a church that is clearly not transparent and to an individual that is potentially fraudulent in his claims and appeals.

**MinistryWatch Take:** MinistryWatch.com believes donors are entitled to make an educated and knowledgeable giving decision based on all the facts about a church or ministry. While Healing Waters Cathedral is not in the MinistryWatch database because it is a church and not a ministry, MinistryWatch has conducted thorough research about Mr. Jenkins, including attending one of his “healing crusades” recently. As a result of that research, MinistryWatch reports:

- Mr. Jenkins continues the dubious practice of selling water at his crusades at \$1.50 for each 20 ounce bottle, implicitly claiming through the testimonials of others that it has “healing powers.”
- A woman that Mr. Jenkins claims to have healed at his Charlotte crusade has instead told MinistryWatch that she is now in worse physical condition than before Mr. Jenkins and his staff manhandled her at the event.
- The antics observed by MinistryWatch staff as Mr. Jenkins moves about in the audience seem clearly geared towards future promotional efforts, as TV and radio recordings are carefully choreographed so that audience members can not hear the replies offered by the “healed” person, as evidenced in the case of the woman noted above.
- Adheres to the theologically deceptive “health and wealth” or “prosperity gospel.” He promises that those who support him financially will “...never have another problem.”
- Scores of people leave his crusades downcast and dejected because they do not have enough to “buy” a miracle. The harm to the authentic Gospel of Christ as a result is immeasurable.
- Refuses to answer questions about his conduct, theology and the financial affairs of his church. MinistryWatch asked church officials in person for an interview with Mr. Jenkins, and have also communicated with the ministry via email and phone several times. All requests have been denied or ignored. MinistryWatch submitted 21 sets of questions to Mr. Jenkins. All remain unanswered, including: (1) At the crusade, a product on display (but not for sale there), was Mangosteen. What relationship do you and/or your church have with this product? Do you or the church derive any income from it? If so, how much? Also, the water you had for sale on Friday night is labeled as being from Amanda Hills Springs in Fairfield County, Ohio. What is the precise nature of the relationship between you and/or your church with his company? Do you or the church derive any income from the sale of the water? If so, how much? (2) You made the statement Friday evening that you are selling property and giving the proceeds to the ministry. You said also that your secretaries were there and would support that statement. Would you release the financial documents that verify that claim? (3) What is your salary? Will you provide documentation for verification? (4) What other perks and benefits to you have? Will you provide documentation for verification? (5) What do you do with the money you raise at crusades? (6) What safeguards does the church have in place to assure donors that money is being used wisely and accounted for? (7) The church recently moved from Ohio to Arizona. Why?

**MinistryWatch Recommendation:** MinistryWatch recommends that donors to Leroy Jenkins avoid attending his crusades and strongly recommends that they consider redirecting their giving to one of the many scripturally sound, needy ministries that can be found in our [www.MinistryWatch.com](http://www.MinistryWatch.com) database.

**Want to know more?** Wall Watchers, through its website, [www.thegoodsteward.com](http://www.thegoodsteward.com), has posted a number of articles about Mr. Jenkins in the Headliners section of the website. Articles include:

#### A ‘Real Man of God’ or a Fraud?

Evangelist Leroy Jenkins brings his ‘healing crusade’ to Charlotte, combative, unapologetically hawking his ‘miracle’ water, promising wealth and prosperity to those who support him, and calamity to those that oppose him

<http://www.thegoodsteward.com/article.php3?articleID=2238>

#### Anything But Healed

Woman ‘healed’ by Leroy Jenkins she is now worse off and was used as a stage prop by the controversial evangelist

<http://www.thegoodsteward.com/article.php3?articleID=2237>

#### God on Demand

Ending the second night of his crusade singing, “My Way,” evangelist Leroy Jenkins offers healings for donations and sends untold scores home downcast and dejected

<http://www.thegoodsteward.com/article.php3?articleID=2236>

#### What to Make of Leroy Jenkins

Though his theology is suspect, the faith of his followers is authentic

<http://www.thegoodsteward.com/article.php3?articleID=2235>

## Contact Information and Resources

### Government Contacts

#### Internal Revenue Service

Exempt organization customer service address:  
Internal Revenue Service  
TE/GE Customer Account Services  
P.O. Box 2508  
Cincinnati, OH 45201

- Tax-exempt assistance: 1-877-829-5500
- General tax questions: 1-800-829-1040
- Order forms and publications: 1-800-829-3676
- Website: [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)
- Verify tax-exempt status
- Verify tax deductibility
- Obtaining federal tax-exempt status
- Completing federal tax forms
- Specialized assistance to tax-exempt organizations

#### Attorneys General offices, or Departments of Justice, Charitable Activities Section

Most states have an active unit of the Attorney General's office that are willing to help consumers. Check with NASCO (National Association of State Charities Officials) at [www.NASCOnet.org](http://www.NASCOnet.org), look under US State Charity Offices and click on the state of interest.

- Reporting illegal activity by nonprofit organizations
- Information about charitable organizations and copies of annual reports
- Questions about professional fundraising reporting requirements
- Registrations of charitable corporations or trusts
- Questions about annual reports for charitable organizations
- Merging nonprofit organizations
- Serving as a board member of a nonprofit organization
- Dissolving nonprofit organizations

#### Secretary of State, Corporation Division

Check phone number on the Internet or your local phonebook under state government.

- Verifying that a nonprofit corporation is in fact incorporated and current in its filing
- Obtaining copies of filed articles of incorporation and amendments
- Forming a new corporation
- Obtaining state identification numbers
- Merging nonprofit corporations
- Amending articles of incorporation
- Dissolving nonprofit corporations

#### Federal Trade Commission

Consumer Response Center  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20580  
1-877-382-4357  
Website: [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov)

- Information on fraudulent, deceptive and unfair business practices
- How to file a complaint

### Christian Ministry Marketplace

#### MinistryWatch.com

1 (866) 324-7097  
[www.ministrywatch.com](http://www.ministrywatch.com)  
A free donor advocate service. Aid donors in understanding the key issues concerning a ministry's operations. Ministry research reports on over 500 ministries.

#### The Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA)

1 (800) 323-9473  
[www.ecfa.org](http://www.ecfa.org)  
A membership ministry advocate. A self regulator or peer accountability membership group. Primary responsibility to the ministries that pay dues to the ECFA and thereby fund its operations.

#### [www.theGoodSteward.com](http://www.theGoodSteward.com)

Internet source of constantly growing information on all areas of stewardship.

#### Generous Giving

[www.generousgiving.org](http://www.generousgiving.org)  
Nonprofit that seeks to encourage givers of all income levels to experience the joy of giving and embrace a lifestyle of generosity, according to God's word and Christ's example. It was launched in 2000 by the Maclellan Foundation.

#### Royal Treasure

1 (770) 977-4502  
[www.royaltreasure.org](http://www.royaltreasure.org)  
Nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching Biblical Stewardship to women.

#### The Gathering

[www.gatheringweb.com](http://www.gatheringweb.com)  
Conferences, email forums, conference calls and other activities for those that give a minimum of \$200,000 annually to Christian ministries or have the capacity to do so.

#### National Christian Foundation

1 (800) 681-6223  
[www.nationalchristian.com](http://www.nationalchristian.com)  
Facilitates Christian stewardship. They can help donors set up a Stewardship Fund, a donor advised fund, liquidate assets, provide gift annuities, trusts, scholarships, and endowments.

#### Calvin Edwards, & Co.

1 (770)-395-9425  
[CalvinEdwards@MaximumGood.com](mailto:CalvinEdwards@MaximumGood.com)  
For profit organization providing philanthropic counsel to high-capacity Christian donors.

#### Geneva Global

1 (610) 254-8202  
[info@GenevaGlobal.com](mailto:info@GenevaGlobal.com)  
[www.genevaglobal.com](http://www.genevaglobal.com)  
For profit organization assisting individual donors.

#### Excellence in Giving

1 (866) 780-1000  
[www.excellenceingiving.com](http://www.excellenceingiving.com)  
For profit organization with tailored services of affluent families and individuals.

#### The Legacy Group

1 (262) 789-3160  
[www.philanthropyatwork.com](http://www.philanthropyatwork.com)  
For profit organization to assist private wealth management and those to achieve charitable goals.

### Secular Resources

#### GuideStar

[www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org)  
Largest public search engine of nonprofit organizations. Provides access to many tax-exempt organization's IRS Form 990s. Some knowledge of accounting may be necessary to understand the documents found on this site.

#### BBB Wise Giving Alliance

[www.give.org](http://www.give.org)  
A charitable watchdog site. The Alliance reports on nationally soliciting charitable organizations that are the subject of donor inquiries. These reports include an evaluation of the subject charity in relation to the voluntary BBB charity standards.

#### Charity Navigator

[www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org)  
Helps guide intelligent giving by evaluating the financial health of each charity in its database.

#### Charity Channel

[www.charitychannel.com](http://www.charitychannel.com)  
Known best for its nonprofit email arena discussion forums.

#### The American Institute of Philanthropy

[www.charitywatch.org](http://www.charitywatch.org)  
A charitable watchdog group that rates US charities in different categories. Fee for reports. They also provide tips to insure safe giving.

#### The Charities Review Council

[www.crcmn.org](http://www.crcmn.org)  
Conducts detailed reviews of national and local charitable organizations soliciting in the State of Minnesota. They also provide tips and guides for donors to help them make wise giving decisions.

#### Internet Nonprofit Center

[www.nonprofits.org](http://www.nonprofits.org)  
Provides an extensive array of nonprofit topics.

#### Independent Sector

[www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org)  
A national leadership forum, working to encourage philanthropy, volunteering, nonprofit initiative and citizen action that help to better serve people and communities. There is a section on ethics and accountability, including donor's bill of rights, related publications, articles and other resources.

#### Chronicle of Philanthropy

[www.philanthropy.com](http://www.philanthropy.com)  
Biweekly newspaper of the nonprofit world.

#### The Nonprofit Times

[www.nptimes.com](http://www.nptimes.com)  
Articles and topics related to nonprofits.

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1 (866) 324-7097

[www.ministrywatch.com](http://www.ministrywatch.com)  
[www.wallwatchers.org](http://www.wallwatchers.org)  
[www.thegoodsteward.com](http://www.thegoodsteward.com)